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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,943	12/13/2001	Pablo I. Rovira	M-12350 US	7400

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EXAMINER

TURNER, SAMUEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/016,943

Applicant(s)

ROVIRA, PABLO I.

Examiner

Samuel A. Turner

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because figures 1-3b must be labeled as prior art. Correction is required.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

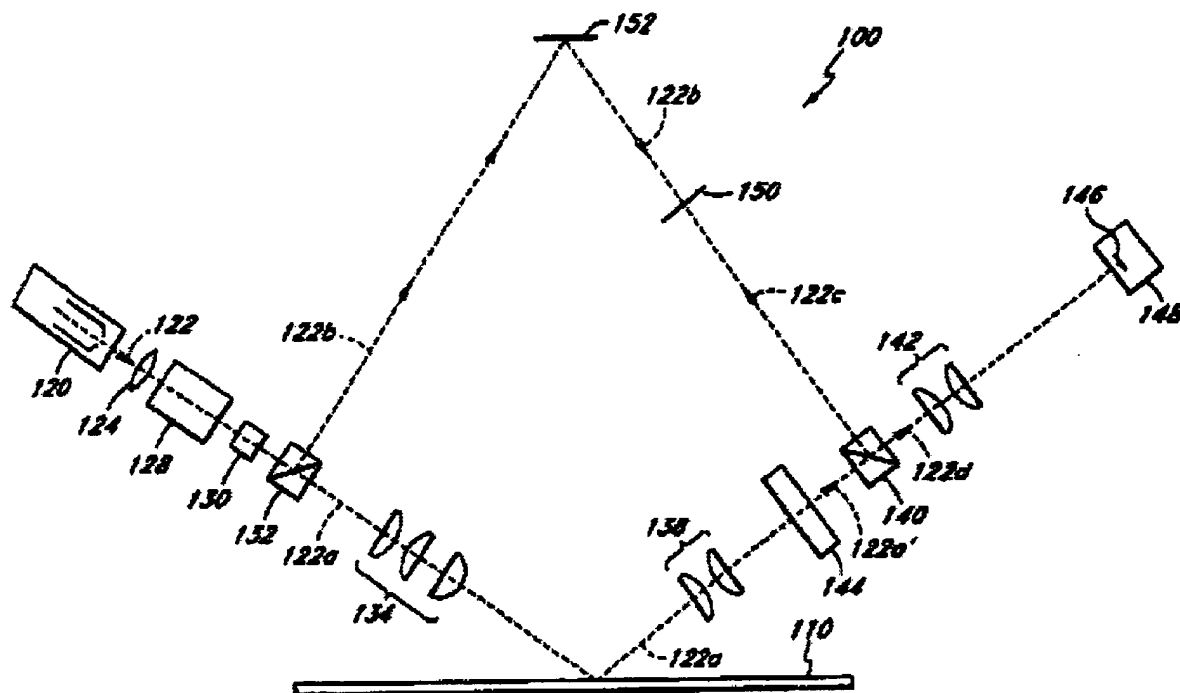
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-18, 20, 21, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Lacey et al(5,777,740).

Lacey et al teach a combined interferometer/polarimeter comprising a source(120) which can be a quartz halogen lamp or laser source, polarizer(128), quarter wave plate(130), first beam-splitter(132), directing optics(134), optics(138), adjustable polarizer or liquid crystal device(144), second beam-splitter(140), reference mirror(152), shutter(150), and detector(146). The apparatus can be used in either an ellipsometer mode with the shutter closed or the interferometer mode with the shutter open.



Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 19, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lacey et al(5,777,740).

Lacey et al fails to teach either a mirror or coupler in place of the beam-splitters or the use of multiple sources. Official notice is taken that mirrors and optical couplers are known functional equivalent beam-splitters, and that a single

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source can be composed of a plurality of separate light sources.. See In re Malcolm, 1942 C.D 589; 543 O.G. 440.

With regard to claims 5, 6, 9, 22, and 23; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the beam-splitters with known functional equivalents such as mirrors of optical couplers.

With regard to claim 19; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use any number of sources to provide the desired source bandwidth.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel A. Turner whose telephone number is **(703) 308-4803**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font, can be reached on (703) 308-4881.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722. The faxing of papers related to this application must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 (15 November 1989). The Group receptionist telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Any inquiry of a technical nature regarding reissues, petitions, and terminal disclaimers should be directed to Hien Phan whose telephone number is (703) 308-7502, or Ed Westin whose telephone number is (703) 308-4823.

Any other inquiry of a technical nature, and all inquiries of a general nature including those relating to the status of this application or any patent term adjustment should be directed to TC2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.



Samuel A. Turner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2877

SAT
8/8/03